

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MR. MACK R. FARR

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the vision, professional dedication, and public service of Mr. Mack R. Farr who will retire in July after thirty-one years of civilian service in the Department of Defense. During that time, Mr. Farr has become one of the preeminent leaders in the development and procurement of night vision devices for the U.S. Armed Forces.

Mr. Farr has been instrumental in the development of night vision devices at all levels—from technician at the Army's Night Vision Laboratory to Technical Director for the Army's Project Manager for Night Vision/Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition. The extent of his participation spans the development of two generations of image intensifiers, laser aiming lights, laser range finders, and laser countermeasures systems, as well as the recent development and production of second-generation thermal systems. These systems enable our troops to fight in the dark and represent one of the most profound improvements in military capability.

Our ability to "own the night" was critical to the success demonstrated during Operations Desert Storm in Kuwait and Just Cause in Panama. Under Mr. Farr's technical direction, the U.S. military has procured \$3.3 billion worth of night vision equipment, substantially improving the lethality and survivability of our Armed Forces.

Mr. Farr began his career with the government as a technician for the Army's Night Vision Laboratory in January 1967, working to improve the operating life of image intensifier tubes. He then focused on miniaturizing this technology so that it could be utilized by the individual soldier. The products which evolved from this effort are now widely used by both ground soldiers and aviators alike, and have formed the foundation for such grand concepts as the Land Warrior program. The best compliment paid to Mr. Farr came from one of his colleagues who stated, "Mr. Farr brought night vision to the individual soldier."

During his career, Mr. Farr was the chief architect of omnibus style procurements for night vision devices. Omnibus procurements are designed to solicit multiple night vision systems which use common manufacturing processes and combine them into one significant multi-year contract. In addition, these procurements were one of the Army's first "best value" contracting efforts. Both concepts have become so successful that best value source selections are now the desired method of procurement for the Army, and four omnibus style contracts have been awarded over a fifteen-year period for 476,861 night vision goggles, sights, and driving devices. Mr. Farr's efforts in shaping these concepts have led to

the continuous improvement of night vision devices over this period. Night vision goggle unit prices have decreased by seventy percent over this time frame, while the performance of night vision goggles has significantly increased.

Mr. Farr has also led the Army's Project Manager, Night Vision/Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition office in continued acquisition reform. His efforts in Image Intensification have resulted in a consolidated program which today is known as horizontal Technology Integration and Single Process Initiatives. Mr. Farr has worked with industry to develop innovative concepts such as establishment of the first swap out program which allows Army units to trade-in old image intensification systems for credit toward purchase of the latest high performance devices. Industry then recycles components from the old image intensifier systems for use in their commercial products. This process keeps industry prices low and Army capability high, at a reduced cost to the Government.

Mr. Farr has also been instrumental in developing export policy for night vision devices. He has worked closely with the Army Materiel Command, Defense Technology Surveillance Agency, and Defense Intelligence Agency to develop a policy which is both fair to U.S. night vision manufacturers and protective of U.S. interests in this technology. Under this policy, U.S. manufacturers have become the desired suppliers of night vision equipment on the international market.

Mr. Farr has received numerous awards during the span of his government career, however his preeminence in the electro-optics field is best demonstrated by his selection into the Association of Night Vision Manufacturers Image Intensification Hall of Fame for his long service and remarkable contributions to this technology.

I know that Mr. Farr's wife, Nancy, his children, Shelly, Mark, and Robert, and the Department of Defense are proud of his accomplishments and contributions. Our Nation and our Armed Forces are indebted to him for his many years of public service. I wish him well in his future endeavors.●

321ST MISSILE GROUP, GRAND FORKS AFB

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the 321st Missile Group at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, as it prepares to deactivate.

As my colleagues may be aware, the 321st is one of the longest-serving and most decorated ICBM units in the United States Air Force. After flying B-25 bombers in the Mediterranean theater during the Second World War as the 321st Bombardment Group, this fine unit undertook several aircraft and basing changes before coming home to the prairies of North Dakota at Grand Forks AFB in 1964.

As the 321st Missile Wing, this unit was the very first to deploy the Minuteman II ICBM during the mid-1960s, and became one of the first to upgrade to the Minuteman III missile in the early 1970s. The 321st consistently won awards, being often regarded as the best ICBM wing in the Air Force. After this unit was selected for closure, its personnel ably continued the strategic deterrence mission, while also—ahead of schedule—realigning the 321st Missile Group's assets.

North Dakotans have always had a special attachment to the 321st. Unlike other military units which are sometimes seen at a distance, at air fields and barracks behind chain-link fences, the 321st Missile Group has literally been based in North Dakota's backyards. Its roots of steel and concrete are sunk deep into the prairie soil of the Flickertail State.

One hundred and fifty ICBM silos and fifteen missile alert facilities dot the fields of eastern North Dakota, covering an area larger than the state of New Jersey. As the missileers and their hardware stood at the very frontlines of the Cold War, we North Dakotans in our nearby farms and communities knowingly and proudly stood with them. For over three decades, we have been pleased to open our small town coffee shops to personnel on their way to inspect a launch facility, or to groups of officers returning to base after pulling long strategic alerts in launch control facilities beneath the wheat fields of the Red River Valley.

Mr. President, the men and women of the 321st have been a part of North Dakota in a very special way. To everyone who has served in the 321st over its long history at Grand Forks, I say this: you will always have a home in North Dakota. You are part of the family.

There is no question that we are sad to see the 321st go. Even so, I think it is important that we put the departure of this unit in its proper context.

The 321st is being realigned because our country won the Cold War. The triumph of America and its ideals over communism and tyranny is worth celebrating.

As we celebrate this victory, however, we must not forget that it was the men and women of the 321st who provided America the strategic deterrence and stability that allowed the Cold War to end peacefully. Around the clock, year after year, the 321st stood ready to deliver 450 nuclear warheads to targets throughout the Soviet Union in just a few minutes time. This made it clear to Moscow that a thermonuclear war with the United States would be a conflict they could never hope to win.

I would urge my Colleagues in the Senate not to forget that the motto of the Strategic Air Command was "Peace is Our Profession." Truly, the 321st has been an organization of "peace professionals."

It is good to know that the spirit of the 321st Missile Group will live on at